The stock with the Central Pool *vis-a-vis* buffer norms since 1.1.2008 is given below:-

(Qty. in lakh tons)

	Rice		Wheat	
As on	Actual Stocks	Buffer Norms	Actual Stocks	Buffer Norms
1st January, 2008	114.75	118.00	77.12	82.00
1st April, 2008*	138.35	132.00	58.03	50.00
1st July, 2008	112.49	98.00	249.12	171.00
1st October, 2008	78.63	52.00	220.25	110.00
1st January, 2009	175.76	118.00	182.12	82.00

*Adhoc enhanced norms.

The stock in the Central Pool as on 1.2.2009 was 201.94 lakh tons of Rice and 167.74 lakh tons of Wheat.

(c) The Stocks of foodgrains available in the Central Pool are being used for allocations to States/UTs under TPDS, various Welfare Schemes and for relief during calamities and for market intervention to increase their availability for consumers.

In view of the increased availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool during 2008-09, a total of 429.14 lakh tons of foodgrains (274.24 lakh tons of Rice and 154.90 lakh tons of Wheat) have been allocated by the Government under TPDS, Welfare Schemes and for flood relief etc. Government has also allocated about 24 lakh tons of wheat to State/UT Governments for sale to retail and bulk consumers under Open Market Sale Schemes (OMSS) in order to increase its availability in the market.

In addition to the existing buffer norms, Government has also decided to create strategic reserve of 30 lakh tons of wheat and 20 lakh tons of rice from Central Pool. Further, Government has allowed export of upto 20 lakh tons of wheat from Central Pool on diplomatic basis to friendly countries.

Stock of wheat and rice

†593.SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the available stock of wheat and rice in the country at present;

(b) the quantity of stock of wheat and rice which is considered to be enough from the food security point of view; and

(c) whether Government has prepared any action plan for adequate amount of storage of foodgrains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The stock of wheat and rice in Central Pool as on 1st February, 2009 is as under:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(Qty. in lakh ton)

Rice	201.94
Wheat	167.74

(b) The allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is made @ 35 kg per family per month for all accepted numbers, 6.52 lakh of BPL and AAY families for all the States and UTs on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission, projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India, as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration card issued by each States/UT, whichever is less. Full quantity of foodgrains are allocated to BPL and AAY category as per the above norms. The annual requirement of foodgrains for 652 lakh BPL families (including AAY families) and 7.42 lakh families of KBK Districts of Orissa being allocated at BPL rate @ 35 kg per family per month works out to be 277 lakh tons.

If allocation of foodgrains is considered @ 35 kg per APL family per month, the annual requirement of foodgrains for 1152 lakh APL families would be 484 lakh tons. However, allocations of foodgrains for the Above Poverty Line (APL) families are made depending upon availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool.

The stock of foodgrains presently available in the Central Pool is sufficient to make allocations under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Welfare Schemes as per existing level of allocations.

(c) For the XIth Five Year Plan, Rs. 149 crore have been allocated. Out of these Rs. 125 crore have been earmarked for godowns to be constructed by the FCI, and Rs. 24 crore for the State Governments of NE Region, Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir. The funds are released to the FCI in the form of Equity and to the State Governments in the form of Grants-in-Aid.

With a view to augment storage capacity in the country, a new scheme has been formulated for inviting public investment for creation of additional storage facilities for FCI.

Also, FCI has been allowed to hire storage facilities from Central Warehousing Corporation, State Warehousing Corporations and private parties depending upon requirement.

Food coupons under PDS

†594.SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food coupons have been issued in some States by Government under public distribution system (PDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has made any survey to ascertain their outcome after issuing coupons;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.